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Local Rarities and New Derbyshire Records for 1973

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Lepidoptera recording in Derbyshire and adjacent areas of the surrounding counties has been carried out during the past year with a greater intensity than usual, by members of the Derbyshire Entomological Society, in preparation for a new publication on the counties lepidoptera. The frequent field excursions, plus an unusually favourable summer, produced some interesting specimens, some of the most important of which are listed below.

Gonepteryx rhamni L. is a scarce species in the county though a few are recorded annually, particularly in the south. During 1973 the following specimens were recorded: — one, 8th June, Lathkil Dale (R. A. Frost); one, 16th June, Clough Wood; one, 31st July, Tansley (B. L. Statham); one, 16th May and five during the period 15th August to 19th September in Elvaston Castle Country Park near Derby (M. Tong).

Polygonia c-album L. has not been recorded for a number of years but a single specimen turned up at Churchtown, Darley Dale (V. Calhoun).

Donacaula mucronellus D. & S. M.V. trap, three, 26th June—29th June, Elvaston Castle Country Park. First county records for this species (F. Harrison).

Myelois cribrella Hübn. M.V. trap, nine, 8th June—18th July, Elvaston Castle Country Park. First county records for this species (F. Harrison).

Eupithecia dodoneata Guen. M.V. trap, four, 20th May—13th June, Elvaston Castle Country Park. First county records for this species (F. Harrison).

Rivula sericealis Scop. M. V. trap, one, 25th July, Elvaston Castle Country Park. First county record for this species (F. Harrison).

Drepana binaria Hufn. M.V. trap, two, 29th May, Elvaston Castle Country Park. Only three previous specimens recorded in the county (F. Harrison).

Apamea caracterea Hübn. M. V. four, 22nd June—6th July, Elvaston Castle Country Park. Very local and has not been recorded in recent years.

Noctua interjecta Hübn. *caliginosa* Scha. M.V., four 2nd August—16th August, Elvaston Castle Country Park. This has always been a county rarity. Six specimens were seen flying by day on the 4th August at Blaxton Common on the Notts/Yorkshire boundary (F. Harrison).

Rhizedra lutosus Hübn. E. L., two, 17th and 26th September, Elvaston Castle Country Park (M. Tong). Single specimens are occasionally recorded.

Xylena vetusta Hübn. E. L., one, 1st November, Elvaston Castle Country Park. (M. Tong). Only previous county records are single specimens in 1905 and 1951.

Conistra ligustri Esp. M.V., twenty, 3rd to 8th November, Elvaston Castle Country Park. Very local and rarely recorded in numbers.

Oligia versicolor Borkh. M.V., three 18th July, Elvaston Only two previous county records, both in 1972.

Acronycta trideus D. & S. M.V., one, 26th June, Elvaston Castle Country Park. (F. Harrison). A larva was found at Mapperley on 26th September (D. Clay, J. Culpin).

Lycia hirtaria Clerck. M.V., seven, 6th May—22nd May, Elvaston Castle Country Park (F. Harrison); M.V., one, 13th April, Mapperley (D. Clay). This species is being recorded with increasing frequency since the first county specimen was recorded at Bolsover in 1969.

Eupithecia indigata Hübn. M.V., twenty-seven, 23rd May—10th June, Elvaston Castle Country Park. Very local and not recorded for some years.

Plagodis dolabraria L. M.V., ten, 29th May—3rd July, Elvaston Castle Country Park. Occasionally recorded as single specimens but rarely in numbers.

Selenia lunularia Hübn. M.V., one, 7th June, Elvaston Castle Country Park. Very rare in the county.

Comibaena pustulata Hufn. M.V., three, 28th June—2nd July, including one of the pink form, Elvaston Castle Country Park; three, including two of the pink form at M.V. 25th June—1st July at Mapperley (D. Clay). This species is very scarce and local in the county.

Eupithecia tantillaria Boisd. M.V., three, 29th May—13th June, Elvaston Castle Country Park.

Rheumaptera undulata L. Two, 4th and 5th July, Elvaston Castle Country Park. The only previous county record was of a single specimen at Chellaston in 1895.

Lobophora halterata Hufn. One, 27th May, Elvaston Castle Country Park. Has not been recorded in the county for many years.

Scopula imitaria Hübn. Seven, 4th July—3rd August, Elvaston Castle Country Park. No records for many years. A single specimen was also taken at M.V. on 10th August at Elkesley in North Nottinghamshire.

Ennomos erosaria D. & S. M.V., Sixteen, 2nd August—8th September, Elvaston Castle Country Park. A single specimen at M.V. on 15th September at Hilton Gravel Pits Nature Reserve. Local and scarce.

Larentia clavaria Haw. M.V., one, 26th September, Elvaston Castle Country Park. Rarely recorded and then only as single specimens.

Syanthedon vespiformis L. Fourteen, larvae in oak stumps at Langwith Wood on the 24th June (F. Harrison, J. Culpin); an adult on the 9th July at Shipley Wood (T. Duro).

Schranksia costastrigalis Steph. A female netted at dusk on 15th September in the Derbyshire Naturalist Trust Reserve at Hilton by B. Statham. This is the first county record since a mention of the species in the Victoria County History.

Harpyia bicuspis Borkh. M. V. one ♂, 26th May, Clay Cross (J. Culpin). First record from this part of the county for this scarce species.

Apeira syringaria L. M.V., two, 29th and 6th July, Ilkeston Grammar School (J. Culpin); M.V., two, 28th and 29th June, Mapperley (D. Clay).

Hyles galli Rott. A fully-grown larva was found in a Derby street on the 7th September by a Mr Foster and handed in to Derby Museum.

Rhodometra sacraria L. M.V., one, ♂, 13th September, Darley Dale (B. Statham). M.V., one, ♂ 15th September Hilton Gravel Pits Reserve (B. Elliott).

Eremobia ochroleuca D. & S. M. V., one, 10th August, Elkesley, Notts.

Xanthorhoe quadrifasiata Clerck. 2 ♀♀ were taken from a wall beneath a lamp, on the evening of 10th August in the village of Elkesley, Nottinghamshire, by Mr J. Culpin. One of these specimens laid fertile ova and both were seen and examined by a number of experienced entomologists. The genitalia of one specimen was also examined by Mr T. H. Ford of Sheffield. This is the first Nottinghamshire record for over a century and the site is probably the most northerly British locality for his species.